

In the Drawings:

The attached sheet "3/3" of drawings includes changes to FIG. 4. This sheet, which includes FIG. 4, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 3/3 including FIG. 4.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 2-6, 8, and 13-18 are pending in the application, with claims 8 and 15 being the independent claims. In an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 1, 7, and 9-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Applicant submits the foregoing amendments do not raise new issues and present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103***Claims 45-50***

The Examiner had rejected claims 1-7, 9-14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,627,075 to Weissgerber ("Weissgerber") and International Patent Publication No. WO 03/066264 to Gosger ("Gosger"). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection has been rendered moot by (i) the cancellation of claims 1, 7 and 9-12, and (ii) amending the dependency of the remaining claims upon rewritten claims 8 and 15, the subject matter of which has been indicated as allowable (see below).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 15 have been so rewritten and are now allowable. Applicants submit that claims 2-6, 13, 14, and 16-18 which depend from claim 8 or claim 15, are allowable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as claims 8 and 15 noted above.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (Order No. 067407-5043-US).

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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